

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating a stereoscopic image of an object to permit viewing thereof at a frequency greater than a flicker frequency of the human eye through left and right oculars of a microscope arrangement, the method comprising the steps of:

5 illuminating an object to provide an imaging beam passing through a single microscope objective defining an imaging beam path as well as an entry pupil and an exit pupil;

 passing said imaging beam through an imaging optic along a single optical channel;

10 alternately blocking a section of said imaging beam in said imaging beam path on said single optical channel into two component beams at a clock frequency of the human eye greater than the flicker frequency at one of the following locations: in said exit pupil, near said exit pupil or at a position along said
15 beam path which is optically conjugated to said exit pupil thereby forming a left image and a right image for a stereo pair; and,

 transmitting said left and right images to left and right oculars of said microscope arrangement for viewing by said
20 observer.

2. A microscope arrangement for generating a stereoscopic image of an object for viewing by an observer through left and right oculars of a microscope at a frequency greater than a flicker frequency of the human eye, the microscope arrangement
5 comprising:

 a single microscope objective for imaging said object and defining an imaging beam path as well as an entry pupil and an

exit pupil along a single optical channel;

illuminating optics for illuminating said object by
10 providing an imaging beam coming from said object and passing
through said objective and along said imaging beam path;

means for alternately blocking a section of said imaging
beam in said imaging beam path on said single optical channel to
form two component beams at a clock frequency greater than said
15 flicker frequency of the human eye with said blocking means being
disposed at or near said exit pupil or at a position along said
imaging beam path which is optically conjugated to said exit
pupil, thereby forming a left image and a right image for a
stereo pair;

20 means for transmitting said left and right images to said
left and right oculars of said microscope for viewing by said
observer; and,

said blocking means including a DMD mirror arrangement for
forming said left image and said right image for said stereo
25 pair.

3. A microscope arrangement for generating a stereoscopic image
of an object for viewing by an observer through left and right
oculars of a microscope at a frequency greater than a flicker
frequency of the human eye, the microscope arrangement
5 comprising:

a single microscope objective for imaging said object and
defining an imaging beam path as well as an entry pupil and an
exit pupil along a single optical channel;

illuminating optics for illuminating said object by
10 providing an imaging beam coming from said object and passing
through said objective and along said imaging beam path;

means for alternately blocking a section of said imaging beam in said imaging beam path on said single optical channel to form two component beams at a clock frequency greater than said flicker frequency of the human eye with said blocking means being disposed at or near said exit pupil or at a position along said imaging beam path which is optically conjugated to said exit pupil, thereby forming a left image and a right image for a stereo pair;

means for transmitting said left and right images to said left and right oculars of said microscope for viewing by said observer; and,

said blocking means including LCD modulator for forming said left image and said right image for said stereo pair and including means for polarizing the light transmitted from said blocking means.

4. The microscope arrangement of claim 3, further comprising a diaphragm mounted at one of the following locations: in said exit pupil, near said exit pupil or at a position along said imaging beam path which is optically conjugated to said exit pupil; and, said diaphragm being configured to optimize contrast, resolution and depth of field of the stereoscopic image.

5. The microscope arrangement of claim 4, wherein said blocking means includes means for performing a diaphragm function which is changeable with respect to at least one of its diaphragm size and diaphragm form.

6. The microscope arrangement of claim 4, said diaphragm being adjustable with respect to its dimensions.

7. The microscope arrangement of claim 6, wherein said diaphragm can be exchanged.

8. The microscope arrangement of claim 6, wherein said diaphragm is configured as one of the following: a circular diaphragm, a rectangular diaphragm or an iris diaphragm.

9. A microscope arrangement for generating a stereoscopic image of an object for viewing by an observer at a frequency greater than a flicker frequency of the human eye, the microscope arrangement comprising:

5 a single microscope objective for imaging said object and defining an imaging beam path as well as an entry pupil and an exit pupil along a single optical channel;

illuminating optics for illuminating said object by providing an imaging beam coming from said object and passing
10 through said objective and along said imaging beam path;

means for alternately blocking a section of said imaging beam in said imaging beam path along said single optical channel to form two component beams at a clock frequency greater than said flicker frequency with said blocking means being disposed at
15 or near said exit pupil or at a position along said imaging beam path which is optically conjugated to said exit pupil, thereby forming the left image and right image for a stereo pair for viewing by said observer with the left and right eyes;

a video camera;

20 means for transmitting said stereoscopic sectional images to said video camera; and,

a 3D display device connected to said video camera to facilitate viewing of said left and right images by said

observer.

10. The microscope arrangement of claim 9, wherein said blocking means is a DMD mirror.

11. The microscope arrangement of claim 9, further comprising a diaphragm mounted at one of the following locations: in said exit pupil, near said exit pupil or at a position along said imaging beam path which is optically conjugated to said exit pupil.

12. The microscope arrangement of claim 11, wherein said diaphragm is configured as one of the following: a circular diaphragm, a rectangular diaphragm or an iris diaphragm.

13. The microscope arrangement of claim 11, wherein said blocking means is a DMD mirror or an LCD modulator which includes means for performing a diaphragm function which is changeable with respect to at least one of its diaphragm size and diaphragm form.

14. The microscope arrangement of claim 11, said diaphragm being adjustable with respect to its dimensions.

15. The microscope arrangement of claim 14, wherein said diaphragm can be exchanged.

16. The microscope arrangement of claim 9, wherein said blocking means is an LCD modulator.

17. A microscope arrangement for generating a stereoscopic image

of an object for viewing by an observer at a frequency greater than a flicker frequency of the human eye, the microscope arrangement comprising:

5 a single microscope objective for imaging said object and defining an imaging beam path as well as an entry pupil and an exit pupil along a single optical channel;

 illuminating optics for illuminating said object by providing an imaging beam coming from said object and passing
10 through said objective and along said imaging beam path;

 means for alternately blocking a section of said imaging beam in said imaging beam path along said single optical channel to form two component beams at a clock frequency greater than said flicker frequency with said blocking means being disposed at
15 or near said exit pupil or at a position along said imaging beam path which is optically conjugated to said exit pupil, thereby forming the left image and right image for a stereo pair for viewing by said observer with the left and right eyes;

 a video camera;

20 means for transmitting said stereoscopic sectional images to said video camera;

 a 3D display device connected to said video camera to facilitate viewing of said left and right images by said observer; and,

25 said blocking means including a variable light modulator for forming said left image and said right image for said stereo pair.

18. The microscope arrangement of claim 17, wherein said objective is a single-channel objective.

19. The microscope arrangement of claim 17, wherein said variable light modulator is an LCD modulator.

20. The microscope arrangement of claim 17, further comprising a diaphragm mounted at one of the following locations: in said exit pupil, near said exit pupil or at a position along said imaging beam path which is optically conjugated to said exit pupil; and, said diaphragm being configured to optimize contrast, resolution and depth of field of the stereoscopic image.

21. The microscope arrangement of claim 20, wherein said diaphragm is configured as one of the following: a circular diaphragm, a rectangular diaphragm or an iris diaphragm.

22. The microscope arrangement of claim 20, wherein said blocking means includes means for performing a diaphragm function which is changeable with respect to at least one of its diaphragm size and diaphragm form.

23. The microscope arrangement of claim 20, said diaphragm being adjustable with respect to its dimensions.

24. The microscope arrangement of claim 23, wherein said diaphragm can be exchanged.

25. A microscope arrangement for generating a stereoscopic image of an object for viewing at a frequency greater than a flicker frequency, the microscope arrangement comprising:

a single microscope objective for imaging said object and defining an imaging beam path as well as an entry pupil and an

exit pupil;

an illuminating source for providing an illuminating beam;

means at or near said entry pupil for receiving said
illuminating beam and alternately blocking a section thereof to
10 form two illuminating component beams at a clock frequency
greater than said flicker frequency of the human eye;

illuminating optics for transmitting said illuminating
component beams to said object for illuminating said object at
various angles; and,

15 said illuminating optics including a diaphragm mounted in or
near said receiving and blocking means.

26. The microscope arrangement of claim 25, wherein said
diaphragm is configured as one of the following: a circular
diaphragm, a rectangular diaphragm or an iris diaphragm.

27. The microscope arrangement of claim 25, wherein said
blocking means includes means for performing a diaphragm function
which is changeable with respect to at least one of its diaphragm
size and diaphragm form.

28. The microscope arrangement of claim 25, said diaphragm being
adjustable with respect to its dimensions.

29. The microscope arrangement of claim 28, wherein said
diaphragm can be exchanged.